

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-24 and replaced them with new claims 25-39.

Applicant previously filed an amendment of August 3, 2007, which resulted in a notice of allowance being issued on October 22, 2007. Prior to payment of the issue fee, Applicant's representative noticed that the amendment submitted on August 3, 2007 suffered from a word processing error. In particular, a global word processing command was apparently inadvertently entered by an assistant to the final version submitted to the USPTO that had the effect of removing the underlining/highlighting markings in the amended claims. Consequently, in the amendment of August 3, 2007 the word processing error had the effect that new material in the amended claims (such as claim 1) was not underlined; conversely a small number of words in the amended claims that were intended to be deleted for self-consistency did not have strikethrough markings.

The Examiner was consulted on January 16th, 2008 to determine the best course of action to obtain a clear file history that unambiguously reflects on its face the status of allowed claims. Applicant's representative was advised by the Examiner on January 17th that a primary Examiner had been consulted and that Applicant should file an RCE. The Examiner is thanked for his guidance in this matter.

In the present RCE, Applicant has cancelled the previously pending claims and is resubmitting them as a new set of claims to create a clear and unambiguous file history regarding the status of the claims. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the new claims include the same limitations cited by the Examiner in the Reasons for Allowance as not being taught by the prior art. As such, the present RCE does not raise any substantive new issues for consideration by the Examiner. Allowance of all pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any residual issues that can be resolved through a telephone call.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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